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SUBJECT: CROATIA PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTOR PROGRAM

REF: STATE 123946

SUMMARY

1. In response to reftel, below are accomplishments in the past 18 months in Post's SEED-funded, INL-administered law enforcement and criminal justice programs. Post programs are divided into general police reform and war crimes. Post requests INL support in securing USD 2.7 million in new, FY-06 funding. Post proposes to use these funds to complete the war crimes program and to leverage our achievements and continue and expand our ICITAP program into a regional training program focused on developing advanced police skills and anti-organized crime techniques. End Summary.

GENERAL POLICE REFORM

2. As a result of ICITAP training-the-trainer program on the "Use-of-force" continuum completed in October 2004, Croatian police report a dramatic decline in cases of inappropriate use of restrictive measures. The GoC defines restrictive measures or uses of force as ranging from the use of handcuffs on a suspect all the way up to discharging a weapon. From 1995 to 2005, the number of uses of force rose from approximately 480 to 2300 instances. For 1995, fully 6% of instances were found on review to have been excessive or inappropriate. For 2004, less than 0.4% of cases were inappropriate.

3. By June 2005, the police have hired approximately 125 new officers who received their basic training in a completely redesigned Police School. All of these officers are receiving six months of field training with veteran officers. Both the Police School redesign and the veteran Field Training Officer programs were developed under the ICITAP program.

4. Advisor impact: based on proposals developed by ICITAP advisors in conjunction with ICITAP-supported training, the Witness Protection Unit has redesigned its oversight and information security processes.

WAR CRIMES: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVESTIGATION AND ADJUDICATION

5. Three workshops implemented by ABA CEELI (June 05) have educated Croatian judicial and law enforcement officials on international practices and the Croatian legal framework with regard to witness protection. As a result, the Croatian Ministry of Interior's witness protection unit has completely revamped its policies and procedures to address concerns raised by international experts and Post's ICITAP advisors. The workshops also strengthened regional cooperation in the witness protection field.

6. Two study trips for Croatian judges and prosecutors to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (April and July 05) resulted in strengthened cooperation between the ICTY and Croatian judicial officials and improved information sharing in preparation for transfers of cases (both indicted and not yet indicted) from the Tribunal to Croatian courts. We also used the visits to identify Croatian trainers for upcoming seminars.

7. Digital videoconferencing equipment donated to the Zagreb County Court in December 04 has been used to provide remote/protected witness testimony to the Belgrade Special War Crimes Court for the Ovcara Farm case. The equipment has been used for videoconference communication between the Ministry of Justice and the ICTY. Additional systems expected in August for the county courts in Split, Rijeka, Osijek, and Vukovar will allow remote and/or protected testimony in such high profile cases as Lora Prison and Paulin Dvor.

8. Additional audio-visual equipment purchased for the Zagreb County Court is enhancing transparency and media access to court proceedings.

9. Software purchased for the Ministry of Finance's Office for Suppression of Money Laundering is allowing investigators to track money transfers in their efforts to track ICTY fugitive Ante Gotovina.

10. Using funds designated for public outreach, Post is supporting

organization of roundtables and public discussions on war crimes issues that will promote understanding of the importance of rule of law, particularly among critical groups such as war veterans.

FY-06 FUNDING REQUESTS

11. WAR CRIMES: All upcoming initiatives related to war crimes are being funded from FY2005 obligations. For FY2006, post requires approximately USD 83,000 in PD&S funds to fund our war crimes project assistant position. This includes USD 50,000 for salary

and benefits, USD 6,000 for travel and telephone, USD 22,000 for ICASS expenses, and USD 5,000 to cover exchange rate fluctuations.

12. ICITAP: Under Post's SEED Close out strategy, the bilateral ICITAP program was scheduled to finish in FY-04. However, better-than-expected program performance and renewed commitment by the GoC to completing comprehensive police reforms justified new SEED funding for FY-05. For FY-06, we would like to continue and expand current efforts to improve organized crime investigation and prosecution capabilities to leverage the skills being developed in conjunction with the War Crimes program. Since Croatia mission FY-06 funds were drastically reduced, we recognize that this request would be above and beyond current planned funding levels. Post requests that INL look for regional SEED, INL or other funding sources for Croatia. Should such new funding be identified, Post requests USD 1 million for FY-06 to maintain current ICITAP program and training capacities. In addition, Post would like to further leverage our achievements at the Police Academy by developing Croatia as an ideal platform for regional police training and regional organized crime investigative training. To implement this additional effort, Post requests an additional USD 1.6 million in regional SEED or other appropriate funds for FY-06. The total of this request is USD 2.6 million.

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